

Glenda Wiles

From: Silvertooth Traders [silvertooth@cybernet1.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2007 10:00 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Water Rights, Developments, and Traffic

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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TO: Ravalli County Commissioners
RE: Public Notices to Water Right Users

We recently received a Public Notice from Territorial-Landworks, Inc. concerning Legacy Ranch Water Right Users. An objection was to have been filed by September 30th, accompanied by a \$25.00 fee, which seems somewhat excessive, and certainly cuts down on objections, which, I suppose, is the idea. Unexpected difficulties made it impossible for us to do this, and we decided that it probably wouldn't have made any difference, anyway, since we are on the far edges of the affected "zone of influence". We called the Planning Department concerning the many developments appearing on Ambrose Creek Road. They were unable to give us the names of these developments, as they had already been approved, but we are being surrounded. There are developments at East Side Highway that will affect Ambrose Creek Road (Fox Tail Estates?), Sunnyside Cemetery Road and Ambrose; Illinois Bench and Ambrose, and several smaller ones between Tripp Lane and Ambrose. There is a 20 acre field to the east of us that will undoubtedly be developed in the future. We ARE concerned about our water. We have a 95 foot well, with 35 gpm, icy cold and clear as a bell.

The gentleman in the Planning Department told us that we would, indeed, have problems with our water table eventually, it is just a matter of time. We will have to drill deeper, if there is any water left, and there is no guarantee that there will be, or if there is, that it will be untainted. We came here 15 years ago and bought 2 acres in the country. There is not much country left. We are having more and more trouble locating hay for our mules, because the hay fields are being developed. Before long, there will not be water to irrigate the few fields that are left, and there may not be enough to drink. Of course, we are concerned! Very, very concerned. As everyone who lives in

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Ravalli County should be. The more developments that are approved, the less water that will be available. It seems that this should be a major issue.

We have not received any other Water Rights Notices concerning properties that are closer to us than Legacy Ranch. We are retired, and on a fixed income. A new well, that may or may not produce pure water is unaffordable.

While we're at it, we are also concerned about the increase of traffic on what used to be a quiet country road. The speed limit was RAISED to 50 mph several years ago, because there seemed to be no hope that the traffic could be contained at 40 mph. We are afraid to complain again, for fear that the speed limit will be raised once again. More and more access from the developments are making it dangerous to leave or enter from our driveway, go for walks, or even to get our mail. Dogs, cats, skunks, and even birds do not last long, should they accidentally get on the road. A neighbor's toddler grandchild crawled out under their fence on the 4th of July and onto the road. A truck squealed its brakes, honked at the baby, and resumed speed, not even stopping to try to find out where he came from.

The traffic is almost constant, but morning and afternoon are almost impossible times to find someone actually going the speed limit, which is too fast as it is. It is only going to get worse, as the proposed work at the sharp corner of East Side Highway and Ambrose Creek proves, but that isn't going to help our neighborhood at all. We would like to invite the Commissioners to visit the area and see what we are facing.

Sincerely,

Carla & Ray McDonald

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Stevensville, MT 59870

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